IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

ETORI et al

Serial No.: 09/740,809

Filed: December 21, 2000

For: A SEE-THROUGH LIGHT TRANSMITTING TYPE SCREEN

Examiner: Cruz

Art Unit: 2851

SECOND DECLARATION OF HIDEKI ETORI UNDER 37 CFR 1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Hideki ETORI, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of Japan residing at 6-252-6 A-104, Mihashi, Nishi-ku, Saitama-shi, Saitama-ken, Japan.

2. I am one of the coinventors of the invention described and claimed in the captioned application and I am familiar with the office actions issued in connection with that application, as well as the references cited by the examiner in those in office actions.

3. "See-through", as understood by workers in the industry to which our invention relates, means literally that one can see an object through the screen. The word "see-through" is used in this sense in our specification. Figure 1 attached to this declaration shows relative positions of a viewer, a screen and an object behind the screen, where L represents the distance between the screen and the object. When an object behind the screen can be seen by a viewer irrespective of the distance L, the screen is considered a "see-through" screen. On the other hand, when an object behind the screen cannot be seen by a viewer, the screen is not "see-through". However, when the distance L

is almost equal to zero, the object behind the screen can be seen through the screen even if the screen is not "see-through".

4. In order to illustrate the difference between a "see-through screen" and a "non-see-through screen", I conducted a brief experiment using a test screen made of a transparent acrylic plate, half of which was transparent, i.e., "see-through" and the other half of which was made "non-see-through" by attaching a "non-see-through" screen. A board on which a character "A" was printed was placed behind the test screen at distances of 0.5m, 0.1m and 0m and a photograph was taken at each distance. Figures 2(a), 2(b) and 2(c) show the respective photographs. As shown in Figure 2(a), when the board was placed at a distance of 0.5m, the character "A" could not be recognized at all through the left half of the test screen whereas it could be clearly seen through the right half. When the board was placed at a distance of 0.1m (Figure 2(b)), the character "A" becomes visible but dim. When the board was in contact with the screen (Figure 2(c)), all of the character "A" can be seen through the screen.

5. With regard to an image projected from the behind of the screen, e.g., Watanabe et al, because the image is focused on the screen, the distance between the screen and the projected image is zero, as in the example of Figure 2(c). Accordingly, the image focused on the screen can be seen clearly on a "non-see-through" screen.

6. In conclusion, a light transmitting type screen is not necessarily a "see-through" screen. In fact, the screen of Watanabe et al is not "see-through" for the reasons explained in my earlier declaration filed August 4, 2003.

7. The undersigned further declares that all statements made herein of my own knowledge and belief are believed true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under

Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Hideki Etori Mar./30/2004

Hideki Etori date

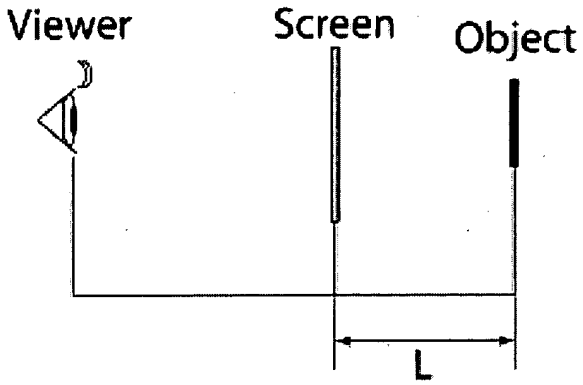

Figure 1 Positional relationship

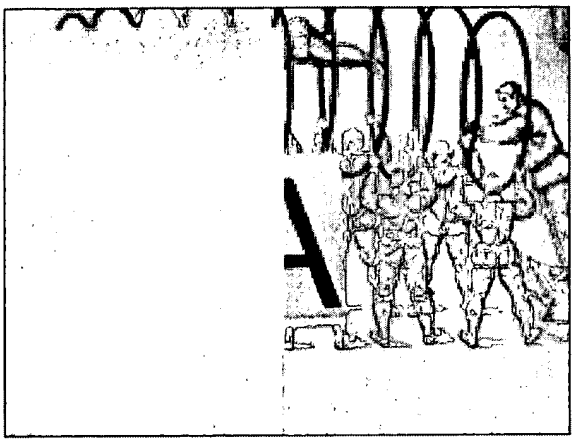

Figure 2(a) L=0.5 m

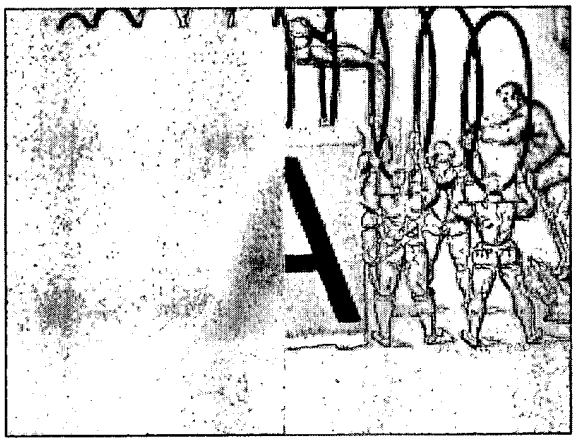

Figure 2(b) L=0.1 m

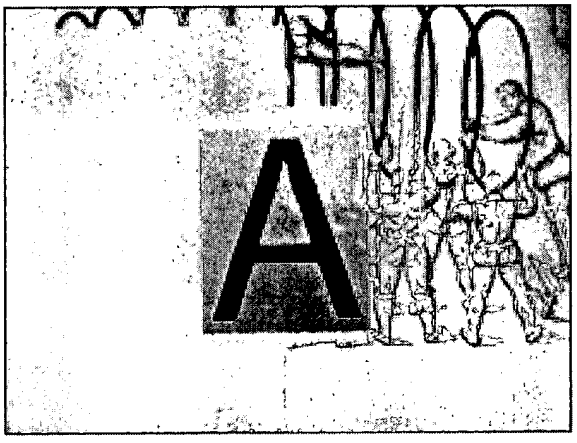

Figure 2(c) L=0 m